

Case - Timothy H. Pfeiffer,
Subject - Homicide, New Brunswick, N.J.
Investigation, Mr. DeM.

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January 31, 1923. In conference with Mr. Pfeiffer - Later on joined by Mr. Sweeney.

I then proceeded to New Brunswick, N.J., and there between 6 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. had the following interview with Jim and Charlotte Mills.

When I entered, Charlotte, Danny and Jim Mills were just about finishing supper. Jim Mills said, "Where does that fingerprint man from Newark come off to get \$75.00 for fingerprints; what did he do?"

Jim Mills was much agitated and peeved; he said that the authorities balled everything up, especially the Somerset County Officials. He said that he was going to see this thing through to the bitter end; that the law favors the people who have money and not the poor ones. That Willie Stevens was smarter than many people believed him to be. He said he has a relative who is a prosecutor in Europe, and he received a letter from which said that the proper thing which should have been done in this case was to place he (Mills) and the whole Hall family under arrest. From all the letters that Mills has received, only one accuses him of the crime.

Jim Mills said that when Eleanor left his house that night, he asked her where she was going, and she said, "Follow me." Mills said, "I did not follow her, but I wish I had followed her, and if I had seen these people up there who did this, and I had a double-barrel shot-gun I would have shot them down like a lot of sausage. I would not dirty my hands with blood. If Mrs. Hall wants to, she can tell much more than she has told. He said there was some talk of Henry Stevens having been up there, and that it would be easy for him to get there in one hour from Lavalette. He said the people who could tell a whole lot about this, are Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Clarke, and Mr. Coreline; he cannot think of anybody else who might have had a hand in this. Spoke to him about the robbery theory. He said, "It is all nonsense, they were killed

January 29th & 30th, 1923. Preparations made to see Mr. Parker, at Mount Holly. Arrived at Burlington, N.J., at 9 a.m. and proceeded to Mr. Parker's office.

Mr. Parker showed me a pawn list which he had received from Captain Sauder of the Philadelphia Detectives. This list showed the watches and Revolvers that were pledged under date of Sept. 19, 1922; among the list were four revolvers, one was a cheap revolver, one was a Colt, one was a Savage, and the other was a Mauser. Mr. Parker then said that it would be inadvisable for me to accompany his men to Philadelphia, for the reason that I might be recognized, and it would be found out that we were working on the Hall-Mills Case. Mr. Parker then made plans and instructed his man to go to Philadelphia on the following day and look up these articles in the pawn shops. Should his man report that any of the pledges have any resemblances to Mr. Hall's watch, he would put a stop on it and notify me, so that I could produce someone to make the identification.

Mr. Parker then told me that he had a plan working, and that within three days, if it went through, he would be successful in getting a confession from Jim Mills, as he (Parker) is positive that Jim Mills committed the crime; he disregarded all other theories, even the Gibson woman's story. Mr. Parker then told me to keep an eye on Jim Mills for the purpose of wearing him. Mr.

Parker also advise me that if possible, to call at Jim Mills' house on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1923, and if I succeeded in getting some important information for me to forward it to him by mail. Mr. Parker said that he was getting Charlotte 'back in the fold' and that some woman was doing this for him. It is my belief that this woman is Mrs. Hauptmann, a reporter of the "New York Daily News."

Mr. Parker then handed me the following notes with regard to infor-

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mation secured by his investigator and Mr. Totten: -

Mills said, "A lot of folks think I did this, but do I look like a fellow who would murder a woman. I would not murder anybody. Some fellows came to the school and accused me, and I just alughed at them - One of them said, 'How is it that everything we ask you, you just grin?' and I said, It is because I have will power, you fellows cannot come from New York and fool me, I have got will power, I would not murder anybody. Mrs. Hall knows a lot - She did not do it, but people think she had a hand in the throat cutting. You know when an older woman loses a man over to a younger woman she does not get over it so easy."

Charlotte said, "Some people think the throat was cut with a blunt instrument." Mills said, "No, it was cut with a penknife." and I said, "It must have been a pretty big knife." He said, "No, they took it in their hands this way," and indicated that they took it by the hold and drew it down around the neck. He said it was a crime of jealousy. "A day or two after they found the bodies some man came to me and said, 'It is blackmail and robbery,' and I crossed him out and said, 'no, this is a crime of jealousy.' Then I said, "If it is jealousy it must have been you or Mrs. Hall, and if even one said that you found them in a comprising position and killed them, no jury at all would convict." Mills said, "But that would have been all right at first, but she could not get away from that now, as the State has been put to too much expense."

That on Monday night, January 22, 1923. Mrs. Kelly said to Mr. Mills, "Did Totten find you, he has been over here looking for you, and I sent him over to the school?" Mills said, "Yes, he came over there, just the same old thing question and question over the same ground." Then after Mrs. Kelly left, Mills said to Charlotte, he said, "I think Totten and Parker think I did this

by their questioning they seem to think I had a hand in it.

Statement of Jim Mills taken Jan. 24, 1923.

"I was there on Sunday, the 21st to get some pictures of Mr. Mills, and he was sitting there peeling potatoes with a large three-blade pocket-knife, and we got a picture of him with that. I asked him to let us take his picture with those brackets he was making for Mrs. Hall and he said, "No, I would not do that, she would have a fit" - and I said, "What do you care what she says, "No, I would not it would go all over the world, and she would have something to say."

Mr. Mills said that on Sunday, Sept. 17, 1922, he went to the Church on Friday night and went through the ministers' desk to see if there was any of his wife's handwriting. I asked him if his wife had a diary, and he said, "Yes, but she burnt it up." I said, "Why did she burn it up?" and he said, "Well, we were playing and I tore a sheet out of it, there was no harm of it, but we were just wrestling around, and I tore a sheet out of it, and she threw it in the fire. Mr. Mills also said that Mr. Hall was shot first; he said sitting down, and then after he was shot, she jumped up and the person who killed her grabbed hold of her and must have had her by the throat when he shot her.

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for jealousy, nothing else -- Mr. Hall was shot first and Mrs. Mills afterwards up around the Shoemaker's brush." A couple of times, Mills said, "No, I would never do a thing like that - If I ever suspected there was anything between my wife and Mr. Hall, I would have done different."

I then told Jim Mills, "That somebody did it, and it makes no difference to me who done it, whether it was Mrs. Hall or anybody else, that I was there to try to find out the truth, and whatever little information that he might be able to give would help solve this." I also told him that if he had any information at all, or knew anybody else that could bring it to Mrs. Hall, I would not hesitate to lay the matter before Mr. Pfeiffer, and compel Mrs. Hall to come in and plead guilty - It made no difference to me where it hit.

I then recited to Jim Mills, two cases, one of a woman who killed her friend, and then of an Italian who killed his wife - Saying in the latter case, that when the husband of this Italian woman walked in and saw her with this other man, he got so worked up that he shot and killed this fellow - In that case the man did the right thing by making a complete confession; after that was done by him, the District Attorney took all of that into consideration and the man was dealt with very leniently. In all cases there are two sides to a story, and it is the duty of a husband to be loyal to his wife, and the wife loyal to his husband. I further said, "The reason I recite this case to you, Mills, is the fact that whoever might be guilty of this crime I think it would be much better if they come forward and tell the entire truth, and there is no telling what the outcome might be."

Mr. Mills' answer to me was, "In that case the husband shot her in the house, that's the reason why he was dealt with so leniently, but in this case the killing took place outside, and they surely would be convicted if caught." He also asked me if I had spoken to Mrs. Gibson, for the reason that someone

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had told him that I had - He would not tell me who the person was that said this.

Jim Mills then told me about making inquiries at Blitz's store on Abeel St., New Brunswick, N.J., at about 11 p.m. at the time he bought the sodawater there, to find out if Eleanor had used the phone. He asked Mrs. Blitz, "Did my wife use the phone?" She said, "No." Then he said something else which I do not remember. At this point, Charlotte, who was seated near the stove, got agitated and said, "You were trying to find out where she went, wasn't you?" Conveying to Jim Mills the impression that he was trying to find out something about Eleanor. He immediately got his wits together and said, "No, that was Friday." Charlotte said, "No, you said that was Thursday night." to which Jim Mills replied, "Yes, it was Thursday night, at the time I bought the sodawater. From Jim Mills' actions, it appeared to me he was caught in a trap and tried to straighten himself out. He and Danny then left the house, and I had about one-half hour's conversation with Charlotte.

Before Jim Mills left, Mrs. Kelly came to the door, and upon seeing me, she excused herself and did not enter.

Charlotte said, that on the day of Sept. 14, 1922, she came home from school at about ten minutes after two, and her mother told her that she was going to meet Mr. Hall. She thinks the meeting place was at the church, and her mother had two notes with her, which she believes her mother was going to leave at the church. She said that her grandma was there at about that time, and when her mother went out, her mother told her grandma that she was going over to Minnie Clark's house. Charlotte said her mother did not return until about 4.30 to 4.45 p.m. at which time she was carrying some packages and a cake which bought at Cobb's bakery on Easton Avenue. At the time the bodies were found, two of the notes and a handkerchief was in a pocket in

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her mother's scarf. Charlotte also states that Mrs. Hall knows more than she has told, and that Gorsline and Mrs. Clarke could tell much more. She said that on one occasion when she went to the church with her mother, she saw her mother place some notes in a book which was in the bookcase next to Mr. Hall's desk in the study. She has a recollection that her mother read the books, "The Mother of all Living," about one or two weeks before this thing happened, because she had seen the books around the house, in fact it is her belief that one of these books were in the house on the morning of September 14th, but she has not seen it since. She asked me if I knew where her mother's diary was, and said, "Why don't you ask Mrs. Hall to tell where my mother's diary is, the one which my mother told me she was to exchange with the one of Mr. Hall's?" I then asked her, "How about the information you gave me some time ago that Sr. Cooper was advising your father," She said, "Oh, he's all right, he got a lot of stuff from people that nobody else could get; he's a veterinary, he comes from Paterson, and he is a friend of McCranes."

While I was there a young man came and handed Charlotte a note. She then told him that there was a detective in the house and invited him in, but he did not come in, he then said he would be back in a half hour, which he did, and I then left.

I received from Mrs. Hall, two letters, one from Mr. Sipple who wants to be compensated for the time he lost while before the Grand Jury. From the tone of Mr. Sipple's letter it appears that he makes a demand, and says, as he has been accused of accepting Mrs. Hall's money, he does not see why she does not compensate him for his time, as he is responsible for getting her out of this trouble, when he went before the Grand Jury.

Mr. Clapp the jeweler on George St., New Brunswick, N.J., has no recollection of ever making any repair on a watch that was owned by Mr. Hall.

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While talking to Jim Mills, I saw him remove from his pocket, a large pocket-knife about four (4) inches in length, which appeared to me to be very sharp. He sharpened a match into a toothpick. On the end it had sort of a loop where you could attach a string to it, on the style of a sailor's knife.